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Nupe language

Nupe (also known as **Anufe, Nupenci, Nyffe, Takpa**[4]) is a Volta–Niger language of the Nupoid branch primarily spoken by the Nupe people of the North Central region of Nigeria. Its geographical distribution is limited to the west-central portion of this region, and it maintains pre-eminence in Niger State. as well as Kwara, Kogi and the Federal Capital Territory.

Nupe	
Native to	Nigeria
Region	Niger State, Kwara State, Kogi State, Federal Capital Territory
Native speakers	(800,000 cited 1990)[1] L2 speakers: 200,000 (1999)
Language family	Niger–Congo ▪ Atlantic–Congo ▪ Volta–Niger ▪ NOI ▪ Nupoid ▪ Nupe–Gbagyi ▪ Nupe languages ▪ **Nupe**
Dialects	Nupe Tako (Bassa Nge)
Writing system	Latin, Arabic [2])
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`nup`
Glottolog	`nupe1254 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nupe1254)`[3]

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Demographics

Nupe is the language spoken by the Nupe people, who reside mainly in Niger State in Nigeria, occupying a lowland of about 6,950 square miles (18,000 square kilometers) in the Niger Basin, mostly north of the river between the Kontagora and Guara confluents from Kainji to below Baro, and also Kwara State, Kogi State and the Federal Capital Territory.

Nupe is spoken mainly in Bida, Niger State and surrounding areas. It is also spoken in villages on the Benue River near Ibi and east of Lafia. Nupe has assimilated earlier ethnolinguistic groups such as the Benu of Kutigi (originally Kanuri-speaking), and the Gbagye at Lemu.[4]

Nupe Tako (meaning 'The Nupe Below'; also known as **Bassa-Nge**) is lexically most closely related to central Nupe.[4]

Classification

Linguistic evidence suggests that the Nupe language belongs to the branch Nupoid of the Benue-Congo group of languages. Other languages in the group are Igbira (Ebira), Gbagyi (Gbari), Gade, and Kakanda. Nupe is related most closely to Gbari and Kakanda in structure and vocabulary. There are at least two markedly different dialects: Nupe central and Nupe Tako.

Phonetics

Nupe has 5 vowels: /a, e, i, o, u/. /a, i, u/ have nasalized forms.

Consonants

		Bilabial	Labiodental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Stop	voiceless	p		t			k	**kp** /k͡p/	
	voiced	b		d			g	**gb** /g͡b/	
Affricate	voiceless			**ts** /t͡s/	**c** /t͡ʃ/				
	voiced			**dz** /d͡z/	**j** /d͡ʒ/				
Fricative	voiceless		f	s	**sh** /ʃ/				h
	voiced		v	z	**zh** /ʒ/				
Nasal		m		n					
Approximant				l		**y** /j/		w	
Trill				r					

Indication of tones

High tone	(´) acute
Low tone	(`) grave
Mid tone	unmarked
Falling tone	(ˆ) circumflex or (ˇ) caron
Rising tone	(ˇ) caron or (ˆ) circumflex

Proverbs

Common sayings come in the forms of *egankogi* (parable), *gangba* (warning), *egancin* (idiom), *ecingi* (riddle/tales) and *eganmagan* (proverb).[5]

Eganmagan (proverb, plural *eganmaganzhi)* are wise sayings spoken among the Nupes. They are didactic proverbs which educate, entertain, and teach morality. They form part of the oral culture on norms and ethics of Nupe societies, and are passed from one generation to another through songs, stories, fables, folk tales, myths, legends, incantations, communal discussions, and worship.

Similar to other African proverbs, Nupe proverbs associate or relate people's action to their immediate environment in order to explain or correct particular situations, norms, issues, or problems. They also enlighten, warn and advise, or teach language in order to change perception which is believed to become reality.

References

1. Nupe (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/nup/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Roger Blench. «Oral literature genres of the Nupe of Central Nigeria». (https://web.archive.org/web/20150421033828/http://www.rogerblench.info/Language/Niger-Congo/VN/Nupoid/Nupe%

20oral%20literature%20genres.pdf) Pages 5—6.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Nupe-Nupe-Tako" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nupe1254). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Blench, Roger. 2013. *The Nupoid languages of west-central Nigeria: overview and comparative word list (http://www.rogerblench.info/Language/Niger-Congo/VN/Nupoid/Nupoid%20Overview%202013.pdf)*.
5. Ibrahim, Isyaku Bala (2009) Eganmaganzhi Nupe (Nupe Proverbs), over a thousand (1000) proverbs). Minna: Gandzo Enterprises.

External links

- PanAfriL10n page on Nupe (http://www.bisharat.net/wikidoc/pmwiki.php/PanAfrLoc/Nupe)
- Takada nya Aduwa nya Eza Kama kendona zizi nya Anglican Church yi na (http://mammana.org/bcp/nupe/) Portions of the Book of Common Prayer in Nupe.

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